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Why Go To Grand Rapids?

A Symposium — by Some of Our Members

I.—A FINAL WORD FROM OUR
HOST, JOHN W. BEATTIE,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Our plans for entertaining the conference are now pretty thoroughly worked out. We have prepared to throw open practically every school in the city for the visiting, but shall attempt to systematize this in such a way that the visitors will be distributed as equally as possible. This will require co-operation on the part of our guests, but we feel sure that we shall have that. The schools to be visited during any half day will be listed, together with a brief characterization of each school, and the type of work which will be done. These schools will be numbered and visitors permitted to choose any building.

As selections are made by number, tickets will be issued. When thirty tickets have been issued for any school, it will be cut off the list. Admittance to schools will be by ticket only. Guides in uniform will be ready to conduct parties to the various buildings. We have been careful to include in our list some schools where the work is interesting because of peculiar and difficult problems.

We are looking forward to the conference with much pleasure. We have worked hard for its success and hope that you will find something of value in what we have to offer.

II.—T. P. GIDDINGS,
Minneapolis, Minn.

The program looks fine to me. The hours especially.

I go for the inspiration of meeting others doing the same kind of work. I want to keep up with the times. My Board of Education and Supt. also want to have me keep up with the times.

We will be there.

I am coming and also two of my assistants.

I look forward to a fine time at Grand Rapids.

III.—ADA BICKING,
Evansville, Ind.

As the school year advances and when we are in the thick of things. I believe we find ourselves constantly giving out and continually drawing from our store house. We become conscious of our needs and our shortcomings; our larder seems almost empty; our faith in ourselves begins to wane, and we feel that instead of making deep grooves and lasting impressions we are not even scratching the surface.

Then we begin to look about us—We wish we might compare our plan of things with that of our sister or brother supervisor in a neighboring city. We find the need of the association of others who are of our same conviction and to know of the progress being made by others who have hitched their wagons to our same star.

So we go to the fountain head for refreshment, for inspiration, for comparison, for a new perspective. There we find the professional tonic which every Supervisor of Music may take in large doses, for the supply is unlimited. Since it has been ap-

pointed unto us to teach, it is also appointed unto us to attend the National Supervisors' Conference to be held this year in Grand Rapids.

IV.—OSBOURNE McCONATHY,
Evanston, Ill.

There has never been as much interest and enthusiasm as is being shown this year. This is surely going to be the largest and the best conference that we have had. Let us hope that everybody will be on hand promptly on Monday morning, March 19th, and will be prepared to stay until the closing of the final session on Friday. Our program contains interesting and important matter for everybody and the pleasure of meeting our old friends and making new acquaintances again attracts us strongly. Let us all pull together to make this the best conference yet.

V.—JULIET McCUNE,
Omaha, Neb.

My chief desire in attending the meeting at Grand Rapids is to keep in touch with those who are working along the same lines—to gain the inspiration from their frank and heartfelt talks concerning their joys, their woes, their successes and their disappointments as well as the opportunity of viewing at close range the work of the pupils under the instruction of Mr. Beattie.

A supervisor's work keeps him so alone he is apt to become narrow unless he takes every opportunity that presents to broaden his angle of vision and this meeting is a most cogent factor in a broadening process.

VI.—EDWARD B. BIRGE,
Indianapolis, Ind.

From the reports coming daily to my desk, I should judge that Indiana will be well represented at the Conference. I have sent letters to all of our supervisors urging them to come themselves and urge their fellow workers to come and am receiving encouraging replies to these letters. We ought to have the largest and best Conference of our history.

VII.—HENRY M. BUTLER,
St. Louis, Mo.

Because "birds of a feather flock together", and since singing teachers are believed to be "musical birds" it is eminently proper for them to spend a week in a grand *study* and *song-fest*.

Supt. W. L. Caxton, Commissioner of Education says "When I was a City Supt. of Schools I took care that we had a good Supervisor of Music", and since vocal music is regarded as one of the essential studies, it is of the utmost importance that every Supervisor should be "on the job" for all it is worth. These "get-together-convocations" are great educators. The Lincoln meeting was fine: will the Grand Rapids equal it in attendance and efficiency?

VIII.—F. W. ARCHIBALD
Salem, Mass.

A personal letter concerning the Grand Rapids Conference has been mailed today to all the supervisors in Massachusetts; also to members of the Advisory Council in New England. It is too early to make any prediction regarding the number attending the Conference but we al-

ready have six from Boston who have signified their intention of going. I expect to be there myself.

IX.—ARTHUR J. ABBOTT,
Buffalo, N. Y.

I could not attend the Lincoln meeting of the Conference and so, for me, the year has been filled with regrets over a great opportunity lost. Should I miss the Grand Rapids meeting the resultant regrets would mean another year of still greater mental discomfort. Perhaps your experience has been the same as mine: if so you will understand why I am going to Grand Rapids.

If I am to meet the demands of the future it is necessary for me to seek every possible source of inspiration and to my mind the Music Supervisors' National Conference is the greatest source of all. And that is the real reason why I am going to Grand Rapids.

I am sure your opinion of the Conference is the same as mine, so we shall meet at Grand Rapids a thousand strong, and I am hoping (if the Editor will allow me to say it) that you will all be our guests here in Buffalo at the earliest possible date, perhaps in 1918.

X.—LILLIAN McCracken,
Boulder, Colo.

1. If you wish to get a wide vision, to determine the essentials, and to see the high points to be attained in Public School Music—Go to Grand Rapids.

2. If you have something too good to keep and wish to pass it on—Take it to Grand Rapids!

3. If you wish something that so none else has of knowledge, skill or experience—Go to Grand Rapids!

4. If you wish to discover whether or not you are in a rut—Go to Grand Rapids!

5. If you need to realize that no matter how well you are doing a thing, there are others who can do it infinitely better—Go to Grand Rapids!

6. If you wish to benefit by the meeting of men and women who are writing many of our school songs—compiling our school books—opening new fields in community work and whose stimulating effect is invaluable—Go to Grand Rapids!

7. If you wish to know how to help uplift and enrich and ennoble your own subject in your own "home-town"—Go to Grand Rapids!

8. If you wish to lose sight of self and see the bigness of your subject—Go to Grand Rapids!

XI.—E. B. GORDON,
Winfield, Kansas.

The reason we should go to Grand Rapids is because we cannot afford to stay at home. The Conference is growing with such tremendous strides and the whole field of public school music is changing and developing so rapidly that a music supervisor simply dare not stay away from this annual meeting.

With me personally, it is the best investment of the year to spend a few days in close fellowship with those interested in the same things I am. I always go home walking on air and determined to take a new grip on things and strive for new achievements.

It has been my good fortune to be in close touch with those having in charge the plans for the coming meeting and I happen to know that we are to have the "time of our lives".

If there were no other reason, I should regard it worth all it costs to see my friend Mr. T. P. Giddings acting as Sergeant-at-arms at the various sessions and ruling with an iron hand.

XII.—HOLLIS E. DANN,
Ithaca, N. Y.

There are as many as one hundred and one reasons why the music supervisor should attend; among them are the following:

The Music Supervisors' National Conference is the liveliest, most progressive, most interesting and most helpful meeting of the year for teachers and supervisors of music in the public schools.

The benefits derived from a week's association with several hundred wide-awake and progressive supervisors is an opportunity which comes but once a year and which we cannot afford to miss.

The country-wide character of the Conference membership makes the meeting especially valuable. When Maine meets and comes to know Louisiana, when New York fraternizes with California, when teachers from all sections of this great land, each and all working together for a common purpose, meet together in a spirit of harmony and good fellowship, who can afford to be absent?

I am looking forward to the meeting with keen anticipation.

XIII.—AGNES M. FRYBERGER,
Minneapolis, Minn.
WARUM?

A multitude of answers
Speeds to the question, "Why
To Grand Rapids should one go?"
And scarce a sane negation
In all the number.—Why?

To keep from growing mossy;
To get energy anew;
To learn from broad experience
What other folks can do.

Among the "folks" you're sure to see
(And hear as well) are: J W B,
The genial host; and P W D—
Whose smile's worth goin' miles to see.

The musical Chief, Mons. E L C
Will tell of activities in San Louee.
The cultured professor, Hollis E D
Will adjust methods to music with nicety.

Should you care for songs for Community

You'll get ideas from Elizabeth C,
Or that Kansas cyclone E B G;
And marvelous sight-reading from
T P G

And approved terminology from K
W G,

And how to get "credits" by W E,
And how to "arrange times" by R
L B,

And manage school orchestras by Anton E,

And be part of a chorus under H
H B,

And do everything well by Osbourne
Mc C.

You've missed a lot—take it from me—

If acquaintance you've none with
Ada B,

Or Mary C from the Creole land, or
Mabelle G,

If your taste should turn commercially,

Hear some new records of Frances C,
Or Frederick G, or Thomas E,
Or, get views on books from C H C
And G and C, S B, and A B C.

Lastly, if no other reason draws,
Just use the feminine "because".

XV.—M. TERESA ARMITAGE,
Chicago, Ill.

The big thing that the wide-awake teacher can acquire in Grand Rapids is a new view-point and a new refreshment and enlargement of spirit. It is literally the spirit of a teacher that makes a vital personality.

The Lincoln meeting sent hundreds of teachers home with a larger outlook than they had when they got there; larger aims, more sincere attitudes toward their work; more enthusiasm for their work, and in general a broader vision of life.

The Music Supervisors' National Conference is working as a unit to make music a very vital factor in organized education. It believes that music, when it has its rightful place in education, will probably be the most important subject in the curriculum, and it believes that the wide-awake teacher of music is to prove the great factor in bringing about this awakening in education. When it comes, the music teacher will find himself and herself a true citizen of the best culture in the country, well-paid and highly respected as a contributing factor to the democracy and spiritual growth of America.

XVI.—EUGENE M. HAHNEL,
St. Louis, Mo.

Every live human who works hard, plays hard, and thinks hard must have a change to ward off serious, unpleasant consequences.

If the pendulum swings far to one side it must have a chance to swing as far toward the opposite side or else there will be no use having one. If you intend to let your life's pendulum start only in one direction of self-centeredness you will on the next

return stroke stop at half way and be a dead one.

Go to Grand Rapids and see how good a fully swinging pendulum feels. Feel the wonderful inspiration of being in a wound-up spring of enthusiasm.

Come and get acquainted with us—the supervisors of music. If you have anything that is good tell us about it at Grand Rapids. If not, come anyway for we know we can give you something.

What you need is more pep and what we need is more pep. So come on now and go to Grand Rapids and have the best time ever.

XVII.—ALICE C. INSKEEP,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Past experience in attendance at many National Conventions has confirmed me in the belief that no really *live* supervisor can afford to miss these meetings—Why?

Because one has an opportunity to lay aside, for one week his own problems and observe others mastering theirs, thereby gaining larger intelligence in his own administration. New ideas in compilation of programs and organization of public performances are extremely helpful.

The inspiration to be derived from exchange of ideas with representative supervisors of the U. S. both in private and public gatherings is inestimable.

The unity and harmony, the good will and joviality always in evidence, as we sing around the banquet board, is a pleasure which will last the whole year through.

If you wish to enlarge your sky line of vision, musically, do not miss these national gatherings.

On to Grand Rapids!